

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 16, with the following amended paragraph.

Figure 1A-1B: ~~Figure 1~~ Figures 1A-1B ~~shows~~ show the nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:1) and predicted amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) of human Asp1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 18, with the following amended paragraph.

Figure 2A-2B: ~~Figure 2~~ Figures 2A-2B ~~shows~~ show the nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:3) and predicted amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4) of human Asp2(a).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 20, with the following amended paragraph.

Figure 3A-3B: ~~Figure 3~~ Figures 3A-3B ~~shows~~ show the nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:5) and predicted amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:6) of human Asp2(b). The predicted transmembrane domain of Hu-Asp2(b) is enclosed in brackets.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 27, with the following amended paragraph.

Figure 6A-6B: ~~Figure 6~~ Figures 6A-6B ~~shows~~ show the nucleotide (SEQ ID No. 21) and predicted amino acid sequence (SEQ ID No. 22) of T7-Human-pro-Asp-2(a) Δ TM.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 29, with the following amended paragraph.

Figure 7A-7B: ~~Figure 7~~ Figures 7A-7B ~~shows~~ show the nucleotide (SEQ ID No. 23) and predicted amino acid sequence (SEQ ID No. 24) of T7-caspase-Human-pro-Asp-2(a) Δ TM.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 1, with the following amended paragraph.

Figure 8A-8B: ~~Figure 8~~ Figures 8A-8B ~~shows~~ show the nucleotide (SEQ ID No. 25) and predicted amino acid sequence (SEQ ID No. 26) of Human-pro-Asp-2(a) Δ TM (low GC).